view of the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Act that has come into force from October, 1988;

(b) whether standard rent would be fixed by the Rent Controller or the MCD and the impact on the owner of the property who lets out at a higher rent; and

(c) what would be the impact of the revised rates of rents and valuations on the property owners who let out their properties and self-occupied properties?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The matter is under correspondance with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the information when received will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant in Bihar

*317. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have recently renewed its demand for setting up of an integrated steel plant at Manoharpur in the tribal area of Singhbhum District, in the Central Sector;

(b) whether any decision has been taken by Government in the matter; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) References have been received from the Government of Bihar from time to time over the past several years in regard to the setting up of a new integrated steel plant at Monoharpur. It has been explained to the State Government that in view of the financial and other constraint and the need to fulfil commitments already made in the steel sector, it would not be possible to initiate any steps in setting up the proposed integrated steel plant.

Powers of investigation to Central and State Minorities Commissions

*318. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give the powers of investigation to the Central and State Minorities Commissions, as contained in Section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, by an appropriate notifications under Section 3 of the Act;

(b) whether such a demand has been made repeatedly by the Central and State Minorities' Commissions and if so, what has been the response of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct its departments to furnish all relevant information when sought by either the Central or State Minorities Commissions; if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to evolve suitable machinery for the redressal of the grievances of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) to (c) Although demands have been voiced by the Minorities Commission as also by the Conference of Central and State Minorities Commissions, Government did not find justification to accept the demand. Instructions already exist enjoining upon all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India to furnish such infomation and documents as may be required by the Minorities Commission and these instructions are considered to be adequate for the purpose. There are also adequate provisions to ensure redressal of grievances of the minorities.

कपास की मांग

*319. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्री राम नरेश यादव :

क्या कृषि मंत्री 4 नवम्बर, 1988 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 274

के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में इस वर्ष के दौरान देश में कपास का उत्पादन अधिक होने की संभावना है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में कपास की अनुमानित वार्षिक मांग कितनी है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कपास परामर्श बोर्ड के अनुसार कपास वर्ष 1988-89 के लिए कपास की घरेलू आवश्यकता 100.5 लाख गांठें होने का अनुमान है।

Price of Wheat

*320. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the price of wheat during the last few months;

(b) if so, what is the percentage rise in wheat prices in the country during the last three months and what are the factors responsible for the rise;

(c) whether nation-wide raids have been conducted on the suspected hoarders creating scarcity in the market if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to import more wheat to check the wheat prices, if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The prices of wheat have exhibited a rising trend during the last three months. The W.P. Index for wheat rose by 11 per trend during the last three months. The increase is mainly due to the spill-over effects of the severe drought last year, seasonality factors, and loss/disruption due to floods in Punjab.

(c) As per reports available from States|UTs. 75,769 raids have been conducted between 1-1-1988 and 30-10-1988 to enforce the provisions of E.C. Act including measures for dehoarding.

(d) The decision regarding import of further quantities of wheat will be taken after the production picture of the current kharif becomes clearer as better availability of rice and other cereals could ease pressure on demand for wheat.

Foreign collaborations in food processing sector

@2590. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign collaborations in the food processing sector have been approved in the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) how many of these collaborations involved technical fees alone and how many involved equity participation;

(c) the estimated outflow of foreign exchange by companies in the food processing sector on account of foreign collaborations; and

(d) what are the details of the project reports and the agreements signed with the units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1610, transferred from the 24th November, 1988.